



**DELAWARE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**  
**Youth Council Meeting**  
**Delaware Department of Labor**  
**Industrial Affairs Library**  
**November 19, 2013**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**Attendees:** George Krupanski - Chairman, Alice Coleman, Felicia Kellum, Stephanie Staats

**DOL Staff:** Eileen Michelinie

**DWIB Staff:** Gwen Jones, Julia Hayward, Bill Potter

**Facilitator:** Tammy Ditzel

**Quorum Achieved.**

**Acceptance of Minutes** - Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with changes to the last line under caption "Youth Council Membership"..... ~~and to increase membership include.~~ The correction reads.... Chairman, George Krupanski addressed the membership of the Youth Council citing there is still a need for a parent representative. Motion made by Alice Coleman to accept the minutes of October 1, 2013 with noted changes. Seconded by Felicia Kellum. All in favor (George Krupanski - Chairman, Alice Coleman, Felicia Kellum, Stephanie Staats). Motion carried.

**Youth Focus Groups** - Gwen Jones identified various opportunities planned to reach the youth community to figure out exactly what they expect and want in the area of careers and employment. Focus group sessions will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> with agencies/schools including West End Neighborhood House, Inc., One Village Alliance, Smyrna, Newark, Laurel High Schools and Newark/Fraim Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware, Inc. Tammy Ditzel, Facilitator provided the invitation to schools and agencies in participation. The purpose of these focus group sessions is to be clear about what we want as a result of these sessions and to access the needs of youth as a young community relevant to career development and jobs. We will be surveying youth between the ages of 16-24.

Chairman, George Krupanski questioned the frequently limited resources and accessibility, indicating that youth might need help getting to the focus group sessions. These sessions will be designed to reach youth in their environment - in schools during school hours which eliminates the need for transportation. Stephanie Staats questioned how do youth prefer to be communicated to and Tammy responded in two or three different ways. Felicia Kellum suggested that what they are looking for shifts for generations. Tammy stated in response to Stephanie Staat's question that is why we are we doing this - to meet the youth where they are, to find out what they know, what they don't know and how to fill the gaps. We are attempting to assess their needs related to the "big workforce picture" in careers, self-awareness, resources, being self-sustaining and being able to work. The focus group sessions will serve to capture that information.

Eileen commented on the difference in age groups and what activities would keep them involved. Tammy suggested this as a great tool to develop corporate partnerships.

Several questions among the council included:

- What does this mean to youth?
- What does it look like to youth?
- Is there currently a master resource for youth services in place?
- What is being provided to transition youth from high school to the workforce?
- Is there a support system and services in the community for homeless youth?
- How do we tie this into youth with disabilities?

Programs such as TARGET, Division of Visually Impaired and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation were suggested as a means to an end in regards to disabled youth. The parameters include at-risk-youth and economically disadvantaged.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman, George Krupanski reported. The Youth Council scholarship seems to have been delayed. It is a matter of getting \$10,000.00 before the Delaware Community Foundation will develop a contract. George indicated there are 2-5 other sources that can be tapped. One of the resources could be the DWIB, and possibly private industry.

**Old Business - None**

**New Business –** Chairman Krupanski questioned how do we integrate and move forward with the resources that currently exist? Gary's concept is that we develop a partnership with United Way, an agency that works around various issued employment being one of them. Gwen Jones suggested Career Cruising as a means because all students in the school system have an account but don't all use.

**Announcements - None**

**Meeting Adjourned @ 10:38 a.m.**